

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 01019 01 OF 02 211851Z

43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-05 /025 W
----- 080377

R 211801Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8318

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01019

PASS NOAA FOR DR. ARON

E.O. 1L652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS,SENV, AS, UK
SUBJECT: WHALE MARKING CRUISE OFF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED TO PASS FOLLOWING LETTER FROM
RAY GAMBELL, WHALE RESEARCH UNIT. BRITISH MUSEUM,
TO DR. ARON AT NOAA ASAP.

"I AM DELIGHTED TO LEARN THAT YOU HOPE TO PROVIDE US
\$5,000 TOWARDS THE COST OF THE WHALE MARKING CRUISE
PROPOSED TO TAKE PLACE OFF WESTERN AUSTRALIA. SUBJECT
TO THE NECESSARY PERMIT UNDER YOUR MARINE MAMMAL
LEGISLATION.

"THESE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WOULD REPRESENT A FURTHER
2-L/2 DAYS CHARTER, SO WE ARE NOW IN THE POSITION OF
BEING ABLE TO PLAN A 14/15 DAY CRUISE. THE PRECISE
LENGTH DEPENDS ON THE FINAL COSTS CHARGED BY THE
AUSTRALIAN WHALING COMPANY. AND I WILL ASK JOHN
BANNISTER TO SORT THIS OUT AS SOON AS THE COMPANY
RESUMES AFTER THEIR SUMMER HOLIDAY BREAK.

"THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE CRUISE CAN BE SEEN AS
BEING SET VERY MUCH WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IDRC
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE PROPOSALS AND IN THE INDIAN OCEAN
AREA STUDIES IN PARTICULAR. THE CRUISE WILL FORM A
CONTINUATION AND COMPLEMENT TO THE 1973-74 INTER-
NATIONAL INDIAN OCEAN WHALE MARKING CRUISE WHICH
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PAGE 02 LONDON 01019 01 OF 02 211851Z

COVERED THE SOUTH WESTERN PART OF THE OCEAN. AND

THE SIX CRUISES OFF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EAST COAST WHICH HAVE BEEN JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE IOS AND THE SEA FISHERIES BRANCH. CAPE TOWN.

" (A). WITHIN THE TIME SPAN AVAILABLE AND ON THE BASIS OF OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE, WE MIGHT HOPE TO MARK SOME 150 SPERM WHALES. AND PERHAPS 10 EACH OF BRYDE AND MINKE WHALES.

"TO THIS END, THE FOLLOWING WHALE MARKS AT PRESENT STORED IN CAPE TOWN WILL BE SENT TO AUSTRALIA:

STANDARD MARKS	37
INCREASED CHARGE	338
OLD TYPE STREAMER	78
410	312

"OUR NEWLY DEVELOPED EXTERNALLY VISIBLE STREAMER MARK HAS JUST COMPLETED SUCCESSFUL RANGE TRIALS IN LONDON. WE PLAN TO ASSEMBLE A BATCH OF 25 OF THESE MARKS FOR FIELD TRIALS DURING THE CRUISE.

"WE CAN ALSO SEND 50 STANDARD MARKS WE HAVE STORED IN LONDON.

"A 12 BOPE AND 410 MARKING GUN AT PRESENT IN CAPE TOWN WILL BE SENT TO AUSTRALIA. AND THERE IS ALREADY ANOTHER 12 BOPE GUN IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

" (B). AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO RECORD SIGHTINGS OF ALL CETACEA OBSERVED DURING THE CRUISE. SPERM WHALES ARE EXPECTED TO BE THE MOST COMMONLY SIGHTED OF THE GREAT WHALE SPECIES, BUT BRYDE. MINKE, HUMPBACK, BLUE, FIN AND SEI WHALES MAY ALSO BE ENCOUNTERED. FROM PAST EXPERIENCE. WITH ASSOCIATED DATA ON DISTANCES AT WHICH FIRST SEEN, VISIBILITY ETC., THIS INFORMATION WILL FORM AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF MATERIAL FOR STOCK SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION STUDIES, INDEPENDENT OF ANY WHALING OPERATIONS.

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PAGE 03 LONDON 01019 01 OF 02 211851Z

"THE CRUISE TRACK IS NOT DECIDED YET, AND WILL DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF A SPOTTER AIRCRAFT WHICH THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE OPERATION. IF THE AIRCRAFT IS AVAILABLE. THEN THE CRUISE WILL NECESSARILY BE CONFINED TO MORE COASTAL WATERS WITHIN RANGE OF THE AIRCRAFT.

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PAGE 01 LONDON 01019 02 OF 02 211820Z

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8319

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01019

PASS NOAA FOR DR

"WITHOUT THE AIRCRAFT, WE WOULD PLAN A MORE EXTENSIVE WESTWARD AND SOUTHWARD GRID FOR THE VESSEL TO FOLLOW. DESIGNED TO PROVIDE UNBIASED SIGHTINGS DATA OVER AS WIDE AN AREA AS IS PRACTICABLE.

"THE PRECISE TIMING OF THE CRUISE MUST BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE WHALING COMPANY. THEIR INITIAL STARTING DATE WAS 1 MARCH, SO THAT THE CRUISE WOULD FINISH ON 14/15 MARCH. WITH THE LA JOLLA SPERM WHALE MEETING SET FOR 16-25 MARCH, EVEN TWO OR THREE DAYS EARLIER TIMING FOR THE CRUISE WILL HELP GREATLY IN ALLOWING REASONABLE TRAVEL FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA TO CALIFORNIA FOR PARTICIPANTS IN BOTH EVENTS.

"PERSONNEL HAVE STILL TO BE SETTLED DEFINITELY. I SHALL CERTAINLY TAKE PART AND ACT AS CRUISE LEADER. I AM AWAITING CONFIRMATION THAT PETER BEST AND JOHN BANNISTER WILL ALSO BE ON BOARD. WE NEED TO SETTLE HOW MUCH ACCOMMODATION THERE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR US, SO THAT A US SCIENTIST MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO REPRESENT YOUR INTEREST DIRECTLY.

I WILL FORWARD ANY MORE INFORMATION AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

SPIERS

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PAGE 02 LONDON 01019 02 OF 02 211820Z

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